



# 5

## SPAIN UNDER THE ROMANS



During the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, Celts and Iberians lived on the Iberian Peninsula. These pre-Roman peoples had received Indo-European, Phoenician and Greek influences.

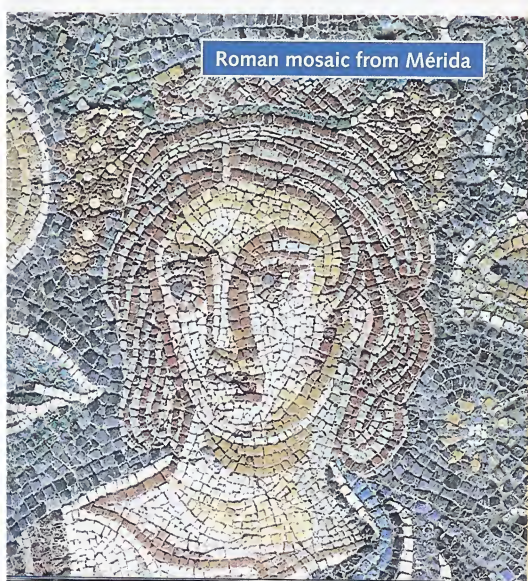
At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, the Romans began to conquer the Peninsula. They first arrived in Emporion. After two centuries they occupied the entire territory.

Roman domination lasted for more than 600 years. During this period, Hispania was just another Roman province.

At the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, barbarians invaded and took control of the Peninsula.



The Lady of Elche



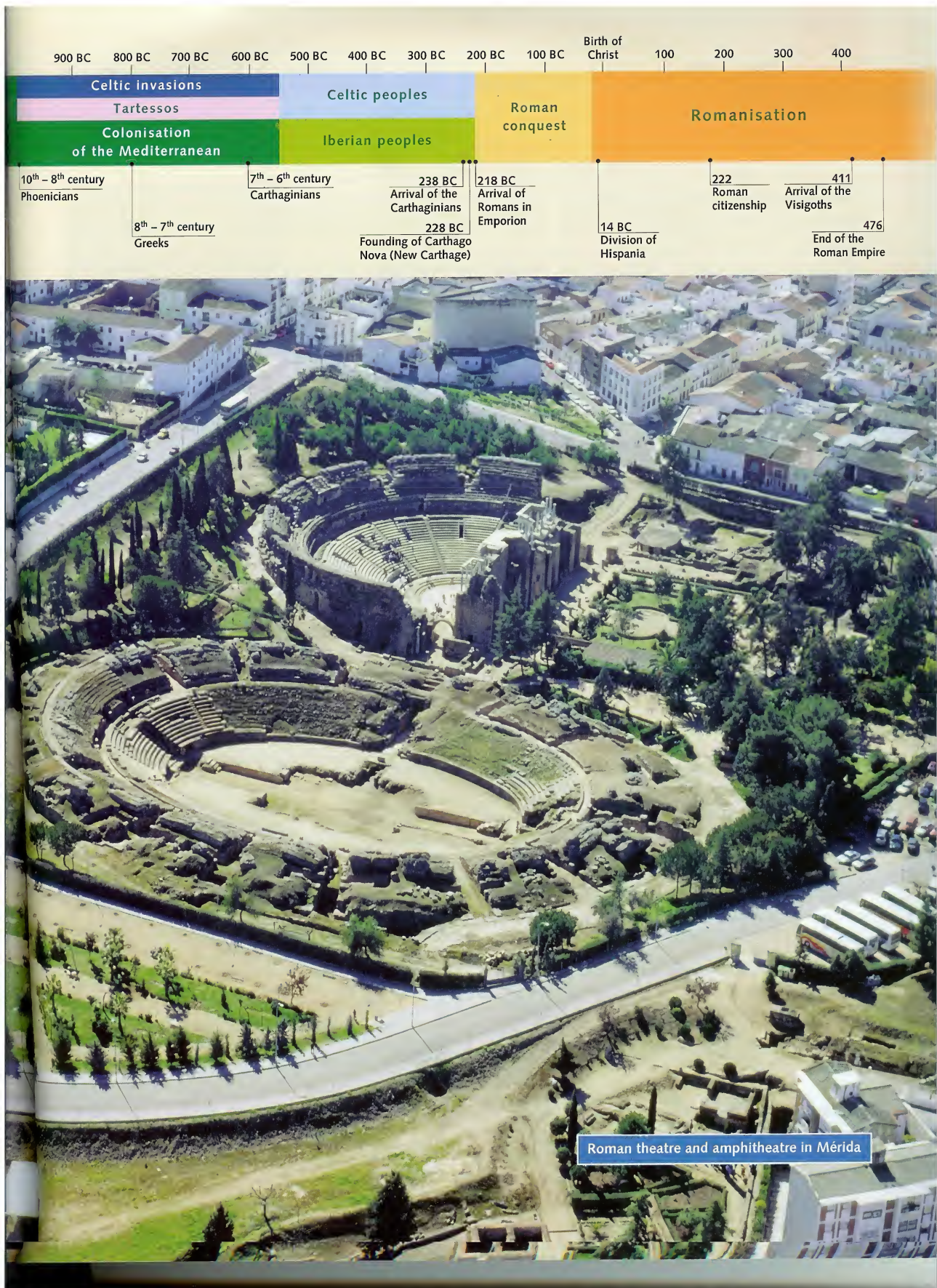
Roman mosaic from Mérida

- Who lived on the Iberian Peninsula in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC?
- When did the Romans arrive on the Peninsula?
- What was the name of the Iberian Peninsula under Roman domination?
- When did the Romans lose control of the Peninsula? Who took over from them?

### WORDS FOR THIS UNIT

- |                  |          |           |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| • colonisers     | • occupy | • conquer |
| • mining         | • domus  | • insula  |
| • pater familias | • tunic  | • toga    |







# Pre-Roman peoples: the Iberians and the Celts

## 1.1. THE IBERIANS

From the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Iberians became established in the east and south of the Peninsula. They developed close relations with the **colonisers** from other parts of the Mediterranean.

Their economy was based on **agriculture** (cereals, olives and grapes) and **livestock** (goats and sheep). The Iberians did metalwork and produced textiles and ceramics. They also had a currency and a writing system. Local kings ruled the Iberian territory.

The Iberians lived in rectangular houses, with adobe walls on stone bases. The roofs were made of branches, clay and straw.

Iberian art was strongly influenced by the Phoenicians and the Greeks. The Iberians were well known for their sculptures, such as the **Lady of Elche**, the **Lady of Baza**, and the warriors of Porcuna.

**a** Which territory did the Iberians occupy?

## 1.2. THE CELTS

The Celts and the Celtiberians occupied the central, northern and western parts of the Iberian Peninsula. They were strongly influenced by the **Indo-Europeans**.

The Celts were **nomadic shepherds** and **farmers**. They did ironwork and made ceramics and textiles. They had no currency or writing system and they traded little with other peoples.

The Celts were organised into family-based clans; several clans formed a tribe. They lived in small villages called **castros**. Their houses were often circular, with adobe or stone walls and roofs made of straw and branches.

**b** Which territory did the Celts occupy?

DISTRIBUTION OF THE IBERIANS AND THE CELTS



## INVASIONS AND COLONISATIONS

During the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, different peoples arrived on the Iberian Peninsula.

The **Indo-Europeans** came from the plains of Central Europe, across the Pyrenees, in a series of invasions. They first settled in Catalonia and the Ebro valley, but later moved into the Meseta and the north. They planted crops, raised livestock and made iron objects. Over the years, they mixed with the native population.

Mediterranean **colonisers** established colonies on the eastern and southern coasts of the Peninsula. They went to these areas because there were minerals to mine.

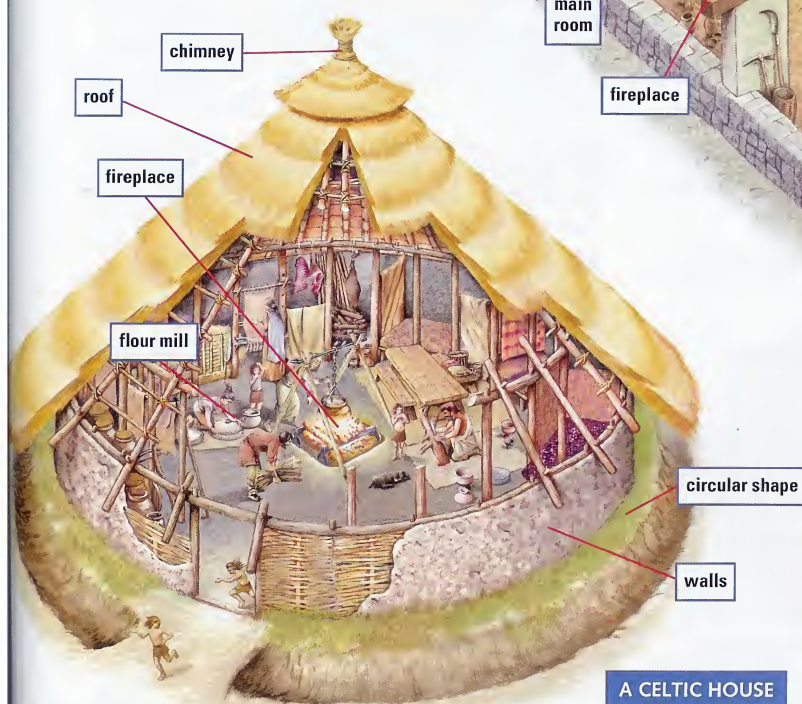
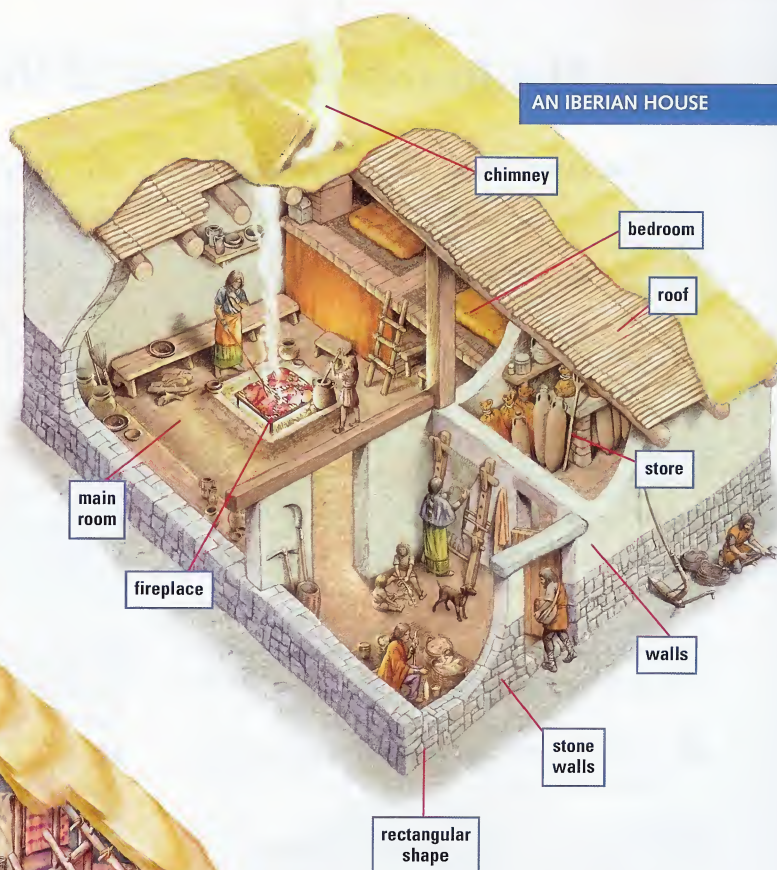
The **Phoenicians** established colonies in the south between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, the **Greeks** established colonies along the Mediterranean coast between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, and the **Carthaginians** colonised Ebusus in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

**■** Which people arrived on the Peninsula in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC?



Greek statue of Aesculapius from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, found in Emporion.

Iberian houses were rectangular. The walls were made from adobe and straw with a stone base. The roof was made of straw and branches and was waterproof.



Celtic houses were very simple and usually circular in shape. The walls were made from adobe or stone. A central post supported the roof.

## LOOK

at the drawings of the Iberian and Celtic houses

- 1 What shape were Iberian houses? And Celtic houses?
- 2 What differences or similarities were there between the houses?
- 3 What activities happened in the houses?
- 4 What materials were they made from?

## ACTIVITIES

- 5 Copy and complete the table.

	Iberians	Celts
Territory		
Economy		
Cultural characteristics		



## The Roman province of Hispania

### 2.1. THE PUNIC WARS

Rome and Carthage fought the Punic Wars for control of the Western Mediterranean. The **Second Punic War** ended with Rome taking control of the Iberian Peninsula.

The Carthaginians occupied the east of the Peninsula, looking for metals and soldiers. They arrived in Cádiz in 238 BC under the command of **Hamilcar Barca**. They soon dominated the south east and founded the city of **Carthago Nova** (Cartagena).

**Hannibal**, Hamilcar's son, decided to leave the Peninsula and attack Rome. The Romans sent an army to the Peninsula to stop Hannibal. Roman soldiers under the command of the **Scipio** brothers arrived in Emporion in 218 BC.

- a** Which war ended with Rome in control of the Iberian Peninsula?

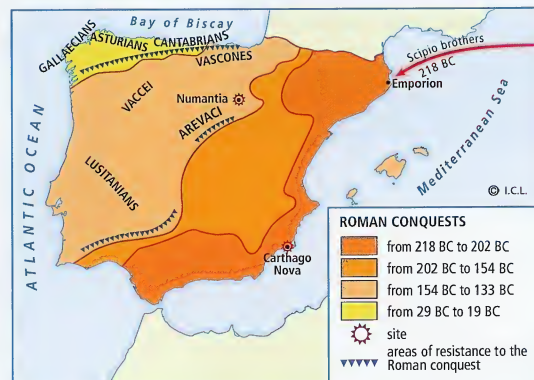
### 2.2. THE ROMANS CONQUER HISPANIA

The Roman conquest of the Iberian Peninsula, which they called **Hispania**, took 200 years and can be divided into four phases:

- **218-202 BC:** The Romans gained control of the Mediterranean coast and defeated the Carthaginians.
- **202-154 BC:** The Romans conquered the east of the Peninsula with little resistance from the native population.
- **154-133 BC:** The Romans were strongly resisted by the peoples of the Meseta, such as the Lusitanians, Arevaci and Vaccaei. The defeat of **Numancia** marked the official victory of the Romans over the Meseta.
- **29-19 BC:** The Romans conquered the territory of tribes in the north of the Peninsula, such as the Gallaeci, Cantabri, Astures and Vascones.

- b** How long did the Roman conquest of Hispania take?

THE CONQUEST OF HISPANIA



- 1 Where did the Roman army enter the Peninsula? When did this happen? Who commanded the Roman forces?
- 2 Which peoples on the Peninsula did the Romans fight?
- 3 Who resisted Roman domination?

ROMAN RUINS IN NUMANCIA



### 2.3. HISPANIA'S WEALTHY PROVINCES

Hispania was organised into provinces under the control of a governor. The Emperor Augustus initially divided the Peninsula into three provinces: **Tarraconensis**, **Baetica** and **Lusitania**. The Emperor Diocletian later divided Tarraconensis into **Tarraconensis**, **Gallaecia** and **Carthaginiensis**. **Balearica** was the last province created.

#### The economy

Hispania was integrated into the Empire's trade routes. Products were exported to Rome and other Roman provinces.

**Agricultural production** increased with the introduction of innovations such as ploughs, fertiliser and crop rotation. Wheat, oil and wine were produced. **Artisan activities** also developed in the areas of weapons and textiles.

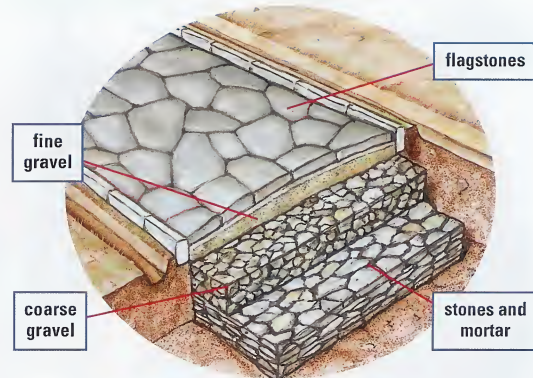
**Mining** in Hispania became a great source of wealth for the Empire. The products of mining included silver from Cartagena and the Sierra Morena, copper from Huelva, Almería and Asturias, mercury from Almadén and gold from the Sil River.

- c** How did Hispania's economy change under Roman occupation?
- d** What were the most important economic activities?

PROVINCES, CITIES AND ROADS IN HISPANIA



ROMAN ROADS



#### LOOK

at the map of Roman roads

- 1** What were the main Roman roads in Hispania?
- 2** Which two roads stand out from the others? Which direction did they run in?
- 3** Which cities did the roads connect? Which cities were Roman provincial capitals?
- 4** Which areas of the Peninsula were best connected by the road network?

#### ACTIVITIES

- 5** Which Carthaginian family fought the Romans on the Iberian Peninsula during the Punic Wars?
- 6** Correct the sentences.
  - a) Hamilcar Barca commanded the Roman army that arrived in Emporion in 218.
  - b) The Romans began their conquest by conquering the tribes in the north.
  - c) Under Rome, the economy of Hispania depended on livestock and soldiers.



# 3

## Everyday life in the cities

### 3.1. ROMAN HOUSES

There were two types of houses in Roman cities: the *domus* and the *insula*.

**Domus** were individual houses of wealthy families. The entrance was a vestibule that led to an interior patio (atrium). Other rooms were accessed through the atrium. The floors were decorated with mosaics and the walls were covered with frescos. Domus had running water and latrines connected to the sewerage system. Some domus had central heating.

**Insulae** were three or four storey apartment buildings where less wealthy families rented flats. There were usually shops on the ground floor.

**a** What types of houses did Roman cities have?

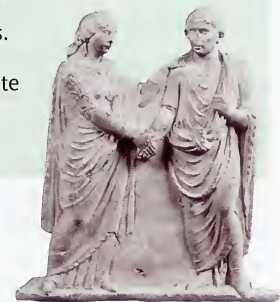
### THE ROMAN FAMILY

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In Ancient Rome, the family was under the authority of the **father**, or *pater familias*. He had power of life and death (*patria potestas*) over his children and slaves.

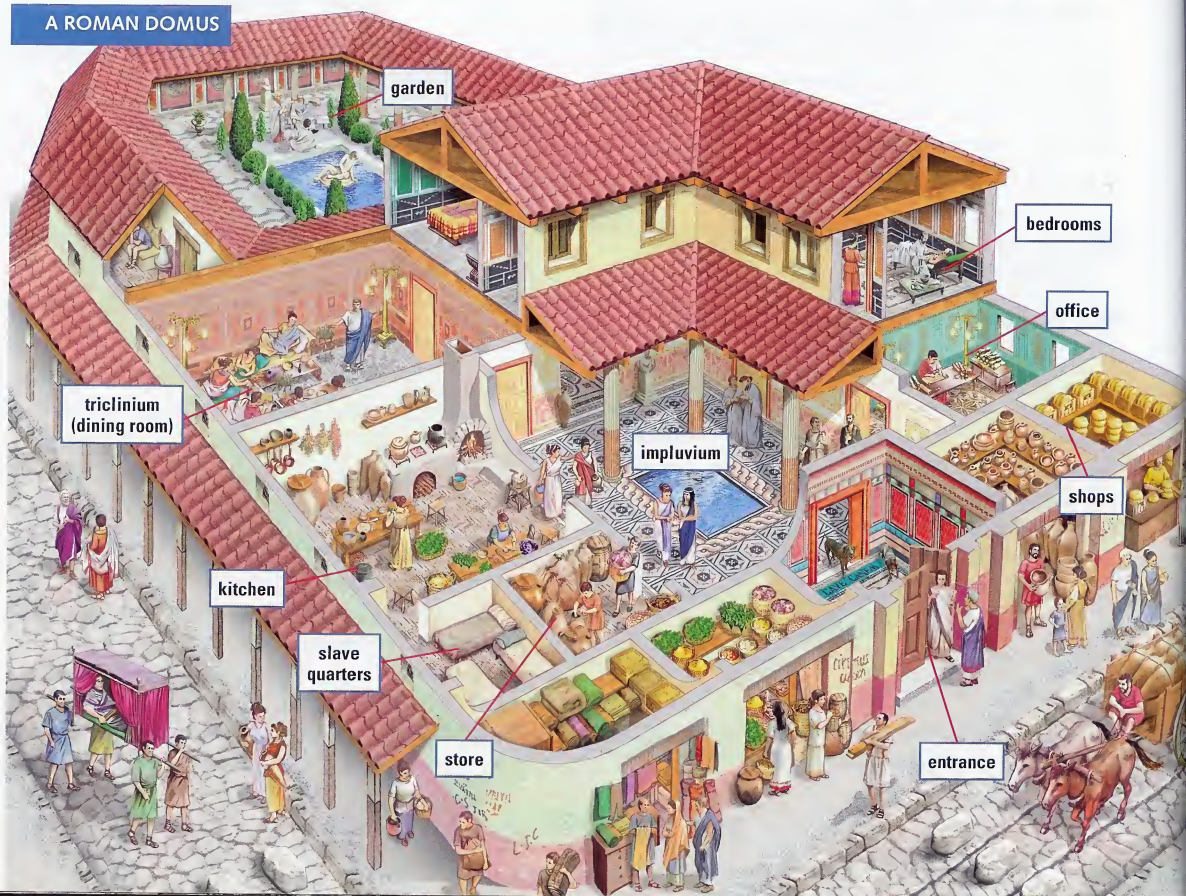
**Women** were also dependent on the authority of men during their lives. This began with their fathers and later passed to their husbands. Widows were dependent on their sons.

Who had the ultimate authority in Roman families?

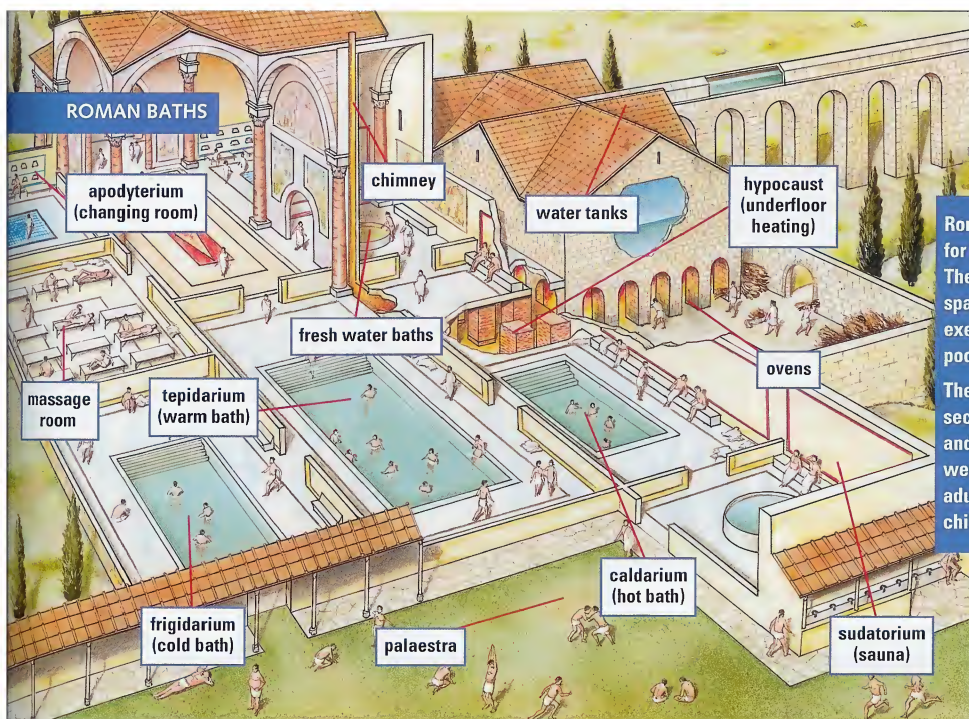


Scene of a Roman married couple.

#### A ROMAN DOMUS







Roman baths were centres for hygiene and sport. There was an open-air space (palaestra) for doing exercise and different pools of thermal waters.

The baths usually had two sections, one for women and one for men. They were relatively cheap for adults and free for children.

### 3.2. FOOD AND CLOTHING

A Roman **breakfast** was made up of bread, dates, cheese and olives. **Lunch** included bread, cold meats, fruit and wine. Families ate **dinner** together.

In wealthy families, dinners were very elaborate, with starters, side dishes, roasts, dessert and wine. Dinners for common people were less varied, with cereals, pork fat, vegetables and pulses. The Romans ate with their hands and used pieces of bread instead of cutlery.

Roman **clothing** varied depending on social status. Only citizens wore a **toga virilis**. This large, semicircular piece of wool was worn over a linen **tunic**. The plebs wore a **short tunic**.

Freeborn boys wore a white **toga praetexta** with a purple border. Married women wore a long dress called a **stola**. The stola was tied at the waist with a belt and was covered with a shawl, called a **palla**, when in public. Romans usually wore sandals.

**b** What did Romans eat?



### LOOK

at the pictures of the domus and the baths

- 1 How was the domus organised?
- 2 What were the different parts of the Roman baths used for?

### ACTIVITIES

- 3 What was the difference between a domus and an insula?
- 4 Who was the *pater familias*?
- 5 What did Roman men and women wear?



# 4

## The legacy of Rome

### 4.1. ARTISTIC HERITAGE

The Romans were great builders and built structures all over the Empire. Many of these structures still exist in Spain today.

The most well-known Roman structures in Spain include **aqueducts** in Segovia, Tarragona and Mérida, **theatres** in Sagunto and Mérida, **amphitheatres** in Itálica, Mérida and Tarragona, **walls** in Lugo and Barcelona, **bridges** in Alcántara and Mérida and **baths** in Caldes (Barcelona).

Commemorative monuments also exist around Spain, including **triumphal arches** in Medinaceli (Soria) and Barà (Tarragona), **temples** in Vic (Barcelona) and Mérida, and **funeral monuments** in the Tower of the Scipiones (Tarragona).

In Spain, we can also find the remains of **mosaics** and **sculptures** used to decorate Roman structures.

- a** How did Romans decorate the structures they built?

### 4.2. ROMANISATION

The territory of Hispania integrated well into the Roman Empire. The population adopted elements of Roman culture, such as the **language** (Latin), **laws**, **institutions**, **religion** and **art**. This was called Romanisation and the process was long and complex.

Many writers from Hispania are amongst the most important Latin authors in history, including **Seneca**, **Marcial** and **Quintilian**. Hispania also produced famous emperors such as **Trajan**, **Hadrian** and **Theodosius**.

- b** Which elements of Roman culture did the peoples of Hispania adopt?  
**c** Which emperors were born in Hispania?

MAIN ROMAN RUINS ON THE PENINSULA



Mythological scene in the Archaeological Museum of Madrid.



Statue of the Emperor Hadrian, who ruled Rome in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.





Roman amphitheatre in the city of Itálica (Santiponce, Sevilla).

Roman aqueduct in Segovia.



Roman temple of Diana in Mérida (Badajoz).



Roman wall in Lucus Augusti (Lugo).

### Netsurfers

In pairs, choose a Roman structure in Hispania and look up information about it. Make a fact file about the information that you find. Then compare your fact file with your classmates'. Look at the links in Netsurfers to help you.

[www.vicensvives.net/netsurfers](http://www.vicensvives.net/netsurfers)

5

### Look

at the map of the Roman ruins on the Peninsula

- 1 What was the function of each of the monuments that appear in the key?
- 2 Find the most important Roman structures shown on the map.
- 3 Which monument is nearest to where you live?

### Activities

- 4 What commemorative monuments did the Romans construct?
- 5 Apart from buildings and structures, how did the Romans influence Spain and its culture?



Look at the photographs. Which Roman structure is being described?